The Guardian

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State Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Fallen Officer

By *The Guardian* Staff

The Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the widow of Seattle Police Officer Gary Lindell who had sued the City of Seattle claiming negligence. The Justices ruled that Seattle Firefighter Kevin Locke and Mrs. Lindell had the right to sue the city. The city challenged both lawsuits claiming that the state law, which allows such lawsuits, violates the state constitution.

Gary Lindell was assigned to the Mounted Patrol in May 1999 when he was thrown from his horse during a training exercise and suffered massive head injuries. Gary was never able to work as a police officer again and he died in 2002 as a result of the injuries he sustained in the fall. Gary's widow filed a lawsuit claiming the city was negligent in its maintenance of the facility, in its training procedures and in its equipment. The lawsuit has been on hold while the city argued over her right to sue.

Officer Gary Lindell
EOW: 3/13/02

The city could still appeal this decision to the United States Supreme Court.
SPOG President Rich O'Neill said, "I am overjoyed by the court's ruling. This sends a strong message to the city that officers and their families can hold the city liable. I will be outraged and very disappointed if the city attorney's office appeals this ruling."

Have You Registered Yet???

SPOG is asking all active SPD Officers to please register for the SPOG website. In February we will have an ADVISORY Ballot which will ONLY be available online, regarding the future use of teh SPOG Trust, and you must be registered on the website to participate. This is the beginning of future online voting for SPOG.

Log onto:
www.seattlepoliceguild.org

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2949 4th Avenue S.
Seattle, Washington 98134
Phone (206) 767-1150
E-mail: mail@SeattlePoliceGuild.org

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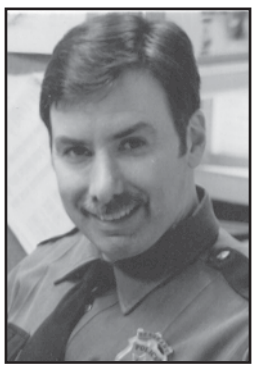
President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



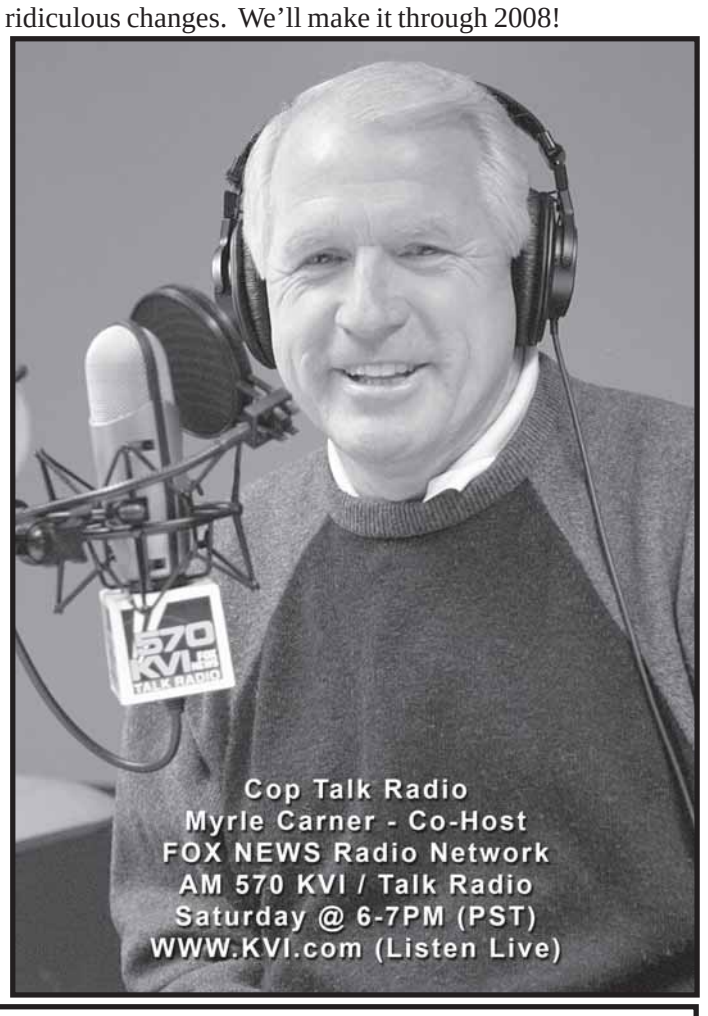
I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. The start of a new year always brings about resolutions as we review the year behind us and look forward to the 12 months ahead. The Seattle Police Officers' Guild and SPD will be facing many challenges. What we do about those challenges will determine what kind of year 2008 will be.

As an organization SPOG will see the election of new board members. It is vital for every organization to continue to grow. I believe we grow when we consider fresh ideas and a new commitment to the mission. If we do things the way we always have, then we will always get the same things in return. As President, I see it my duty to encourage officers to get involved with the guild. We are the biggest police union in the northwest. In 1952, we began by holding meetings in a garage and a shoebox held the dues. Our growth and stability has been the direct result of the many officers who have gone before us. Many officers before us dedicated many hours to the guild in an effort to improve the wages and working conditions for all of us. That is our mission! Like every organization, we have board members who roll up their sleeves and get involved. They go "above and beyond" and they don't wait to be told what to do. We also have those whose involvement is minimal. I think every organization, whether it is the PTA or the Little League, deals with the same situation. That is why it is vital to get to know your board members and to ask other board members just who are the "worker bees" and who are not. I want SPOG to continue to grow and that takes involvement. On the January ballot I urge all of you to read the message written by each candidate to make an informed decision.

The ballot will also have a vital question about our continued affiliation with CWA/AFL-CIO. During the last contract deliberations many thought that a national labor organization could provide some "muscle" to assist with the contract. I voted for the affiliation for that reason alone. Since I have been President, I have not seen this affiliation providing that muscle. At the November General Membership Meeting, a motion passed directing the board to send out a ballot question to the membership inquiring if we want to continue the affiliation with CWA. In fairness, I invited the CWA to send a "pro-affiliation" message for the ballot. Hopefully they will respond so members can read both messages and make an informed choice. If you have any questions about this important choice please do not hesitate to contact any board member for more information.

Another big issue facing SPD and SPOG will be the new Neighborhood Policing Plan which begins in January. So we are all clear. SPOG has signed off on NOTHING! The changes to the squads and districts are not mandatory subjects of bargaining and thus can be implemented without our approval. It will become a SPOG issue if the department attempts to change work hours or if these new squads create a situation where vacations or time off requests are affected. I firmly believe that history repeats itself. I have spoken with many "senior SPOG members" who remember similar plans. I remember Chief Stamper's push for Community Policing. Like this current plan, some of the ideas are "nice on paper." Having an officer know their district and take pride in their beat is a good thing. More "pro-active" time during a shift is good thing. Again, these look good …on paper! The reality is that every one of these plans has failed in the past for the same reason….NOT ENOUGH OFFICERS! Did you know that before we worked a 6 and 2 we had five overlapping shifts? Do you know that it lasted less than 2 years? Do you know that it failed because there were NOT ENOUGH OFFICERS? Stamper's community policing failed because there were NOT ENOUGH OFFICERS. The mayor's plan of hiring 105 extra officers is a good start, but it is not enough to make Neighborhood Policing successful. In my opinion, this plan should stay on a shelf with all the other "plans" until we have ENOUGH OFFICERS to implement it. By doing it this way, the department is ensuring that it will not work. Officers and citizens will get discouraged because they were told Neighborhood Policing was going to be the answer. It is not a matter of "doomsday" predictions; it is a matter of looking at past history and learning from it. We are employees and the city is the employer. We can point out the flaws in a plan, but at the end of the day they don't have to listen. Those who have been around awhile will just smile and will learn to adapt until the next "plan" comes along.

The biggest challenge facing SPOG and the city is the contract situation. I am committed to ensuring that this contract be one that attracts new recruits and stops our experienced officers from looking elsewhere. It will not be easy. There has been a lot of misinformation and rumors starting to swirl around. Is it a ploy to try and divide us? SPOG cannot push the proceeding to arbitration. The decision to move the process to arbitration rests solely with the state-appointed mediator. If the mediator wants to talk for six or ten more months, then we are obliged to do so. The next rumor is that SPOG can stop the Neighborhood Policing Plan with a court injunction. Our labor attorneys said that this is nonsense. Anyone starting or spreading these false rumors is hurting this organization. I know it is frustrating and discouraging. Direct the anger and frustration towards the employer, not towards the union who is working for you! The city could settle this contract tomorrow. We have told them what it will take. I remain hopeful that someone in city government will exercise some leadership and common sense and get this contract settled. Until that happens, we need to stick together. If you ever hear a rumor or need something explained, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me. In unity there is strength! Be extremely careful out there! Your safety is your number one priority! We've outlasted bad plans, useless supervisors and ridiculous changes. We'll make it through 2008!



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Remember Newhall

By Officer Mike Severance, Board Position #5

On April 6, 1970, four California Highway Patrolmen were shot and killed in Newhall, CA. In a gun battle that spanned 4 ½ minutes, two assailants murdered them. Officers George Alleyn, Walt Frago, Roger Gore, and James Pence left behind four widows and seven children ranging in age from 9 months to 4 years. Their deaths were the catalyst that changed law enforcement training, including firearms training, throughout the United States. The Newhall incident created a new law enforcement creed, which spread like wild fire. Train for the way you will fight, and fight the way you were trained.

Tactics for high risk stops were a bit lax back then, and, at their pistol range, those officers were trained to save their empty shell casings from their revolvers **before** reloading. As that real life scenario unfolded, those officers did as they were trained.

There have been some changes in our firearms training/qualifications. One of those changes is the staggered turning of the targets. Since that change was implemented, I have lost count of the number of officers who have approached me with concerns about it. I share their concerns. Our Range personnel are some of the finest and hardest working officers I have ever known. But we need to remember that they take orders from the same Command Staff as the rest of us. If you haven't figured it out yet, officer safety is not the Command Staff's #1 concern. Their concern for potential liability ranks higher. The official explanation for this change is that it addresses the problem of "sympathetic shooting". I'm not aware that this has been a problem in Seattle, but, even if it has or even if it could be, I don't think this is the way to address it. Train for the way you will fight, and fight the way you were trained. Personally, if a fellow officer standing next to me on the street is firing at a threat I cannot see, I will not be standing at the interview position with my weapon holstered. Just because I have not yet spotted the threat doesn't mean the threat hasn't spotted me. My weapon will be drawn and at the ready while I scan. It doesn't matter than I can draw in less than a second. In this business, a split second can be the difference between life and an unpleasant alternative. When we practice active shooter scenarios, we search for a threat not yet seen. Do we practice those scenarios with holstered weapons? My advice is this. In the past, our officers got to qualify up to four times a year. Today, we get to qualify once a year. On that one day, do it the Command Staff's way. On the other 364 days, use your head. Remember Newhall.

The trial of Councilman Richard McIver, the sponsor of the ordinance, which put video cameras in our patrol cars, has been pushed back to January. A judge ruled that audio/video of him from a patrol car camera could not be released to the public. Interesting… Maybe it will show up on the Internet. His wife, through her attorney, has said she will invoke the 5th Amendment against self-incrimination if she is forced to testify. Will Seattle have its own O.J.? Will the wife testify? Will Richard do the honorable thing and resign? Stay tuned.

City Councilman Nick Licata wrote a guest editorial for the Seattle Times. He is against the 1% annual cap on property taxes, and he claimed that he is not a big government spender. Remember our five self-cleaning automatic toilets with the $10,000,000 price tag? Guess who sponsored that ordinance? It was none other than Nick Licata; a member of the 3rd highest paid City Council in the United States.

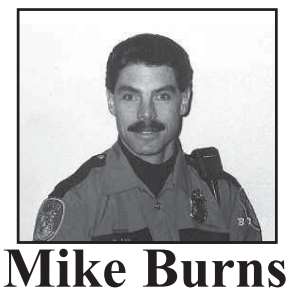
I wish someone would do a study to determine how many of our elderly on fixed incomes have had to give up their homes because they could not afford the ever ballooning property taxes and levy after levy after levy. They worked their whole lives and paid off their mortgages, part of the American Dream...for what. Tax-guzzling politicians who have forgotten priorities have turned it into a nightmare for them.

The December Personnel Order had not come out by *The Guardian* deadline. The net staffing change for 2007 is +3.

Be safe out there.

Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 30th
at 2000 hours
Complimentary Dinner All Members Welcome



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History Corner

By The Guardian Staff

This is a reprint of the SPD Chief's Message from 1968

The Honorable J.D. Braman
Mayor
City of Seattle

Dear Sir:

The year 1967 was unique in the sense that more public attention was directed towards crime and police than in any year of our nation's history. Numerous commissions, committees and organizations studied the crime problem in the United States and in local areas and published voluminous reports. In many respects this is in the best interest of the public, but a natural result has been some improper conclusions about the volume, extent and type of crime in Seattle.

The statistical portion of this report reflects a 44% increase in total Part 1 Offenses in Seattle. This statistic is accurate, but it is deserving of considerable analysis before conclusions are drawn. Part 1 Offenses are eight offenses which more than five thousand police agencies report theoretically on the same standards to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Publication. These offenses were selected not because of their seriousness, but only because in theory they are the ones most completely reported to the police and occurring in sufficient number to have statistical value.

An examination of the actual figures as opposed to percentage shows that in 1967 there were 36,977 Part 1 Offenses reported to the Seattle Police Department; in 1966 there were 25,643. This is an increase of 11,334 offenses. An examination of this increase shows however, that although the crimes against property (burglary, larceny and auto theft) shows a total increase, numerically, of 10,439, 7,178 of these offenses were larcenies. A further significant detail is that in 5,885 of these larcenies, the amount of stolen was less than $50.00.

In the crimes against person, there was an increase of only 895 offenses. The greatest increase in these was in the field of robbery. Four hundred fifty additional robberies, including both armed and strong arm, were reported to the Seattle Police in 1967. This particular crime increase is of major concern because each armed robbery is a quarter of an inch away from murder. The figures not publicized in the F.B.I. report, however, reflect that in the crime of robbery, and indeed in all other crime, Seattle equals or exceeds the national average in the settlement of crime by arrest and charging.

Robbery is a unique offense in that as happened in Seattle in 1967, a numerically small group of persons can account for a substantial number and percentage of offenses. A series of arrests will not only settle a large number of robberies, but more importantly will alleviate the threat of these individuals continuing their criminal careers in this community.

It is apparent from a detailed examination of the crime statistics that crime in Seattle, while it increased substantially, did not keep pace with the population increase. We still have too much crime in Seattle, but we are not in any sense involved in a "crime wave."

In spite of a 10% increase in the number of automobiles registered in Seattle and greatly increased population, the driving public in the City of Seattle is deserving of great commendation. In 1966 there were 21,139 traffic collisions reported to the police; in 1967 there were 19,419. Regrettably, there were two more persons killed in 1967 than in 1966. Seventy-nine persons were killed in 1967 and seventy-seven in 1966. Also the injury rate shows a slight increase from 6,894 in 1966 to 8,617 in 1967. When the vastly increased number of automobiles and miles driven on city streets are considered, this slight increase is amazing.

Mayor J.D. Braman and the City Council took unprecedented action in the calendar year of 1966 by the creation of additional positions in the department and authorizing the greatest single salary increase ever given to members of this department. The result of these actions has been that Seattle police recruiting problems seem to have disappeared. In 1967 eighty-five members left the Seattle Police Department by retirement, military leave or other separations. A total of one hundred twenty uniformed personnel were added to the department. The present status of the police officer appointing list would indicate that those positions created in 1968 will be filled with the finest caliber of young men and women in this department's history.

A problem of continuing concern which carries over from 1966 is the involvement of juveniles with narcotics and dangerous drugs. There has been a great deal of effort at all levels (homes, schools, courts and the police) to determine the extent and the volume of this relatively new community problem. The Police Department has and will continue its full time assignment of the number of men and women necessary to either eliminate this dangerous problem or bring it to an irreducible minimum. It is heartening to see the community concern demonstrated by the involvement of many public, quasi-public and private agencies in attempting to cope with this threat to our young people.

The people of Seattle are turning increasingly to their Police Department for services and assistance. This is reflected in the number of calls logged by the Police Service and Communications Bureau. In 1966 there were 180,927 such calls, but in 1967, there were 216,548 calls. This is an increase of 20%. While it is true that the growing volume of calls from the public decreased in direct ratio the amount of patrol time available for police officers, it does indicate that citizens are actively aware of the closeness, the capabilities and the desires of the Seattle Police Department to serve the people of this community.

In 1967 it is vitally necessary that police efforts in community protection be directed sharply at areas most inimical to the public interest. For example, although the number of physical arrests in the City of Seattle did not increase in proportion to the number of offenses, the quality of arrests increased a great deal. There were no more arrests for public drunkenness in 1967 than there were in 1966, but there was an increase of 17% in arrests of persons subsequently charged with more serious offenses. The number of traffic arrests, both physical and by means of citation, remained almost constant or slightly below that of 1966. Officers assigned primarily to traffic patrol figured substantially in on-the-scene arrests for bank robbers, burglaries, assaults and other serious crimes.

As mentioned in an earlier report, the technique of using citations for non-traffic offenses for the convenience of the public and, of course, of the police show and increase. It is to be expected that this technique will be expanded in future years.

The Community Relations Unit of the Seattle Police Department has greatly expanded its scope of activities. While it is extraordinarily difficult to measure success or lack of it in the area of police-community relations, it is unquestioned that the channels of communication between all segments of our population and the Police Department remain open and are increasing in number. Objective surveys by a committee of the National Bar Association would indicate that every known technique and method of improving police-community relations is being utilized in Seattle.

Yours very truly,
F.C. Ramon, Chief of Police

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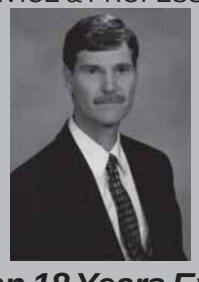

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Family Support Group

By Kim Bruce, Wife of Officer Walter Bruce

To my friends, family, and anyone who understands the challenges and needs of an officer and his or her family, I have recently become involved with the Seattle Police Department through the Family Support Group (FSG). I am very excited about what this group can provide for officers and their families. The FSG provides a great opportunity for families and friends to help the officer they know or the officers they appreciate.

Many of you have an idea of what a police officer does. He or she risks their life daily without hesitation. They protect you and your family at all cost, and sometimes that cost is serious injury or even death. The Seattle Police Department does a wonderful job helping families affected by injury or death. What happens is, after about a month or so down the road, there is not much more the department can do. For an injured officer that is stuck at home, sometimes without contact or knowledge of the goings on in the Department, this isolation or seperation can lead to loneliness or depression.

While in an emergency situation, the officer or their family might be faced with questions like: Who takes the kids to school? How can the children be cared for when the spouse is at the hospital? Or, if there is no family around, how does the officer get to a doctors appointment? What about house chores? These questions are a small part of what the FSG hopes it will help the officer and their families with in their times of need. Sometimes all an officer needs is to know that there is always someone to talk to, or help keep him or her up to date, or just give a little advice.

Even officers dealing with family emergencies or family changes can benefit with extra support. It could be something as happy as adjusting to a new baby or as difficult as a serious illness in the family.

This is where the Seattle Police Department Family Support Group comes in. Not only can we help with the above situations, we can also provide information and education for Officers and their families, such as New Officer and Family Orientation. We will have speakers talk on various subjects that affect new and veteran officers and their families. We will be available when the Police Department needs additional assistance in emergency situations. In short, we are here to make sure our officers are given as much a chance to survive at home as they are on the streets.

I am now asking of you to consider becoming involved with the Family Support Group for SPD. We are in need of people who are interested in being part of such a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the officers and their families when they need it most.

You are invited to our meetings to see if you would be able to take a significant or partial role in continuing the success of our group. Even if you are unable to participate, just knowing you are willing to let others know about us and send them our way could help our cause tremendously. If you have any questions, or want more information, please contact Dusty Pruitt at (253) 335-0742. February's meeting is February 5th at 6pm at the Southwest Precinct. Check out the *The Guardian's* Calendar of Events for future meeting times and locations.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officers of the Month for December 2007 are Officers Rafael Martinez, Stephen Nadell, James Thomsen, Acting Sergeant Marc Garth Green and DOC Officer Steve Lambert of the East Precinct, as nominated by Officer Jennifer Hunt for their work on a shots fired incident and subsequent arrest.

On October 29th, Officers Martinez, Nadell and Lambert were in the area of 300 19th Avenue when they heard several shots fired. After observing a vehicle leave the area at a high rate of speed, they conducted a felony stop on the vehicle. Acting Sergeant Garth Green arrived at the scene of the shooting and located several spent shell casings, as well as a witness to the shooting. This witness was able to positively identify an occupant of the stopped vehicle as the shooter, but no gun was found in the car. Officer Thomsen retraced the path of the fleeing vehicle on foot and was able to recover a handgun that the suspect had thrown from the vehicle.

Due to their fast actions and great response, they were able to take two suspects into custody, recover the weapon and impound the vehicle. It was later discovered that the vehicle might have been involved in an earlier drive-by-shooting that same day.

Congratulations to these officers for an excellent job of responding to the incident, arresting the suspects, getting a good witness and recovering the firearm.

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Tour de F

9/11 Memoria

By Detective Ti

On September 11th, 2007, Detective Ron Sanders and I rallied in Tarrytown, NY to begin the 6th Annual Tour de Force. This annual event was created by New York Detectives Mike de Paolis and his twin brother, Rob and commemorates police officers and firefighters who perished in the terrorist attacks. The weather reflected the emotions of the day, overcast with periods of rain. Even with the passage of six years this was a somber and reflective day.

To be in New York City on this day gave both of us a great sense of pride. We were surrounded by police officers, family members, and civilians who were deeply touched by the tragic events of 9/11. Seventy-two police officers perished during the terrorist attacks and in all 2,974 lost their lives. Many more still suffer from the effects of the dust and other hazardous material that they were exposed to during the recovery efforts.

The continued sacrifices that law enforcement officers make everyday across this great nation also weighed heavily on us. This day had additional significance for Ron and me, after being notified of the death of Seattle Police Officer Michael Edward Kelley.

Upon arriving at the staging point in the Bronx, we unloaded our bicycles and checked in. The staging area was in the parking lot of an NYPD firing range. The Detective Endowment Association of the City of New York served breakfast. They had a large support vehicle with the inscription "The World's Greatest Detectives" running across the hood. Several support personnel worked very hard to load our bicycles in U-Haul vans and made sure that we had plenty of food to fuel our bodies for the first day of our journey.

There were 150 registered riders plus a dozen support staff. The riders came from over 15 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. It appeared that Ron and I traveled the furthest and many were happy to see northwest officers represented for the first time in this memorial event. Everyone proudly donned his or her Tour de Force riding jersey. They loaded us in a Greyhound bus and drove us across town to the westside of the Bronx, where we got our first look at both the old and new Yankee Stadium.

The start of the first 65 mile leg was at Yankee Stadium. We were met by NY Yankee staff and given an official welcome and exclusive tour of the stadium. Amazingly enough, Yankee Stadium was constructed in only 284 days, finished just in time for its inaugural game against the Boston Red Sox on April 18, 1923. During that game, Babe Ruth officially christened the stadium with a three-run homer. It was easy to see why Yankee Stadium was commonly referred to as "The House that Ruth Built". Another feature of the stadium was Monument Park, a museum of sorts, to those players and coaches that exemplified the Yankee tradition. Five monuments were dedicated to the legends of baseball to include Lou Gehrig, Miller James Huggins, Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, and Babe Ruth. In the center of this sacred park was a large plaque, dedicated by the New York Yankees, which paid tribute to all public servants and private citizens that gave selflessly to assist the victims of the World Trade Center. Another point of trivia that we found to be interesting was the most recognizable insignia in professional sports the interlocking "NY" made its first appearance on the uniforms of the New York Highlanders in 1909. The design was actually created in 1877 by Louis B. Tiffany for a medal to be given by the New York City Police Department to Officer John McDowell, the first NY police officer shot in the line of duty.
Following the tour we assembled in front of Yankee Stadium. We bowed our heads for a moment of reflective prayer. We then pedaled out of Yankee stadium under police escort and began making our way through Manhattan, a ride that was scenic but challenging. A light rain covered the roadway making it slippery. There were plenty of bumps, broken glass and metal gratings that littered the streets in front of us. We were warned to stay off all painted lines on the road as it was like riding on wet glass. We stayed together, all of us in high spirits, and looked forward to the ride ahead.

While the focus remained on avoiding the road hazards, our hearts were filled with the spirit of the event. All around us pedestrians, shop owners, and tourists waved and shouted thank you in support of our cause. We turned onto the Queensboro Bridge and begin the first of what will be many ascents. The Queensboro Bridge, also known as the 59th Street Bridge, was a cantilever bridge over the East River in New York City that was completed in 1909. It connected the neighborhood of Long Island City (borough of Queens) with Manhattan, and passed over Roosevelt Island. Looking to our right we could see many Manhatten skyscrapers to include the Empire State Building. Coming into the borough of Queens we started a long descent off the bridge reaching speeds of between 35& 40 MPH. With the combined speed, wind, rain, and the frequent metal expansion joints; it was one of those experiences you could only replicate on a very tall roller coaster. All one could do was keep your hands firmly connected to the handlebars and pray that the rider in front of you did not abruptly hit their brakes.

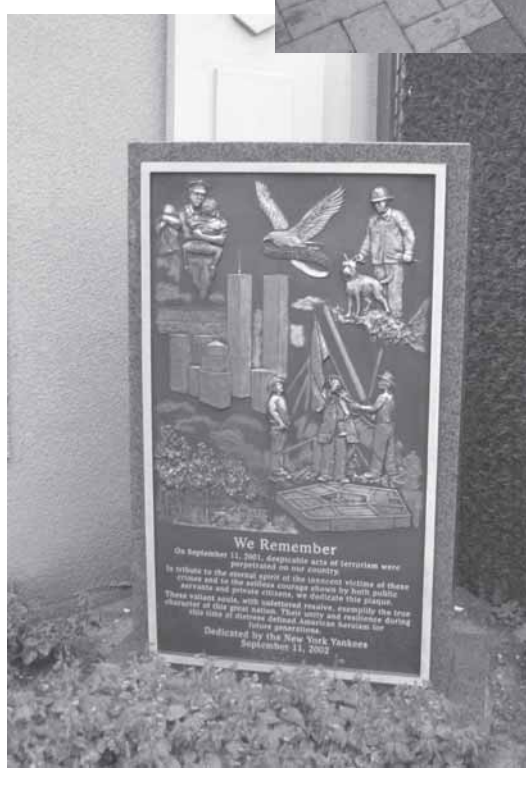
As we pedaled through Long Island on Route 25A, the weather took a turn for the worse. The wind increased, blowing the rain sideways. The misty drizzle that we are accustomed to in Seattle soon turned into a downpour that left all of us immediately soaked. We donned our raingear and decided to keep on pedaling – a decision we would regret later in the day.

On Long Island we maneuvered as a group along Route 25A into Nassau County. Thunder and lightning began to fall northeast of us. The lightning was enough to give one pause as the bolts made their way from the clouds to the ground. It does motivate one to pedal faster. After a brief lunch break of soggy power bars we worked our way along Route 25 while several police departments provided traffic control at major intersections. The thunderstorm continued to rage now covering the roadway with standing water deep enough to conceal the metal grates and potholes underneath. We were told later that four bicyclists had crashed as a result of the standing water. We continued on with trepidation. We eventually made our way to the Planet Bicycle Shop in Nassau County and took a short break consuming power bars and water. I took the time to take off my shoes and wring out my socks. Spirits were still high and we continued getting acquainted with one another.

We continued pedaling east on Route 25 into Suffolk County. The route turned onto Route 83 (Patchogue/Mt Sinai Road), which consisted of a long and arduous hill that made one wonder why bicycling was such a popular sport. Arriving at our hotel and after a hot shower we were treated to a wonderful dinner catered by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Entertainment was a local Farmingville, NY band that played some popular oldies.

Day two started out much better after nine hours of much needed sleep and a continental breakfast. The parking lot was filled with officers working diligently on their bicycles that had been severely punished by Mother Nature the day before. We assembled behind the Suffolk County, NY Police Emerald

Detective



Force 2007

l Bicycle Ride

m Wear, TCIS

Tim Wear

Detective Ron Sanders

Society Pipe Band. The pipe band consisted of 36 members from several police departments such as Suffolk County Police, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Southampton Town Police and Northport Police. They played several tunes as we prepared our bicycles and lined the street as we made our departure from Farmingville, NY. We pedaled off as a group and made our way to the Bald Hill Vietnam Memorial Park. Situated on top of Bald Hill, one of the highest points on Long Island, this monument was constructed in 1991. The monument, a sharply pointed pyramid, painted in the colors of our nation's flag, acknowledged the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam Veterans. It was a beautiful location to observe the scenic countryside of Suffolk County. We had a moment of reflective thought or prayer, paying tribute to our troops who are fighting the war on terrorism, and to the soldiers who have died in the line of duty.

After our departure from the Vietnam Memorial Park we continued east along Route 25 toward Orient Point NY. The ride was scenic with no major surprises, hills, or especially rain…life was great. We pedaled through Long Island wine country and viewed the 3,000 plus acres of vineyards that are planted beside the roadway. We were tempted to stop and sample the varietals but were reminded of the importance of getting to the Orient Point Ferry prior to its departure.

Several of us arrived well ahead of the main group and decided to grab some refreshments and food at the Orient by the Sea Restaurant. The beer was cold and the seafood was tasty. We enjoyed each other's company and the views of Gardiner's Bay. After two or three beers we decided to join the group at the Orient Point Ferry parking lot. The Suffolk County Police Association served snacks and drinks to finish out a perfect day of riding. Later in the afternoon we boarded the MV John H and made the 16-mile crossing from Orient Point, NY to New London, CT.

There was good news and bad news facing us on day three. Our goal for the day was just one of survival. Today we were to ride 97 miles from New London, CT to the Massachusetts State Police H.Q. in Framingham, MA. The good news was the weather, another beautiful sunny day. The bad news was the series of long hills that awaited us on what would become a very long day. I thought that some of the hills would never end and most had to be at least two miles of climbing. It took about eight hours from start to finish and after two flat tires and a fall on some railroad tracks in Framingham, MA; I was ready for some refreshments. The Massachusetts State Police sponsored a barbecue of hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken. The beer was plenty and the survival stories of the day were entertaining. We remained at the campus and enjoyed one another's company until we could no-longer keep our eyes open. The Boston Police Department provided us with shuttles back to our hotel. The party continued in the parking lot where we had further refreshments, Boston style pizza, and Dunkin Donuts. We listened to bagpipe music provided by the Suffolk County, NY Police Emerald Society Pipe Band, until it became unpopular with the other hotel guests.

The final day of pedaling covered a short distance in comparison to the day before. We followed the Boston marathon route from the Massachusetts State Police H.Q. to Fenway Park, a total of 27 miles. The Massachusetts State Police and Boston Police Department escorted us with a helicopter, motorcycle officers, police cruisers, and bicycle officers. The Tour de Force assembled in front of the Massachusetts Police Academy and made our departure behind the Boston Police Bicycle Patrol Unit. We soon passed over heartbreak hill and headed towards the City of Boston. We arrived at Fenway Park in just over one and a half hours.

At Fenway Park we were given a guided tour of the facility and provided an excellent lunch courtesy of the Boston Red Sox. It was surreal to be in the oldest baseball park in the country, so filled with history. We even got to see the park from on top of the "green monster."

After a presentation from the Boston Police Commissioner we are handed passes to the evening game that hosted the Boston Red Sox battling their archrivals the New York Yankees. The majority of our group was comprised of Boston PD and NYPD Officers so there was plenty of banter and good humor being thrown around. We packed away our gear on the bus and were provided showers at the historic Boston Athletic Club. We returned later to Fenway Park early enough to watch batting practice. The NY Yankees in what would become the second longest nine-inning baseball game in the history of baseball, came from behind and beat the Boston Red Sox 8-7.

Our group gathered for one final time after traveling 247 challenging and exhausting miles. Almost **$150,000** was raised and twelve riders from our group stood on the field as the game began in recognition of our efforts. The patrons of Fenway Park gave the group and all of its contributors a standing ovation.

Fifty percent of the donations raised would be given to the New York Police Department Widow's and Children's Benefit Fund. The remainder of the money would be donated to families of police officers killed in the line of duty across the nation.

We would like to thank everyone who donated to this cause. Your contributions made this event a great success. We would also like to recognize the Seattle Police Officer's Guild and Lt. Michael Nolan (SPMA) for their contributions and assistance.

Bacon Bowl President
Office:.....206-935-7700
Res:.....206-937-8873
FAX:.....206-935-7000
Pager:.....206-997-4200
E-mail.....harrietb@johnlscott.com
5242 California Avenue S.W.
Seattle, WA 98136
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Acronyms

A User's Guide to Modern Police Abbreviations & Jargon

By Sergeant Ty Elster, Board Position #8

Do you ever find yourself asking, "What the heck are they talking about?" or, "What does SPIDER stand for?" For years we all knew that if we heard someone request AIS to respond to their scene, it meant that they were investigating a serious traffic accident. Well, AIS (Accident Investigation Section) was renamed a number of years ago and is now known as TCIS (Traffic Collision Investigations Section). And for those of you who thought you knew that ABS is a reference to anti-locking brakes, think again. ABS is the new Arson Bomb Squad that was formerly known at FES (Fraud and Explosives Squad). If it's confusing to those of us who work within the system, I can only imagine how frustrating it is for our retired members. Whether you are an FNG or an AARP member, you will find the list I've compiled of our most commonly used acronyms and terms to be useful in deciphering the current SPD lingo.

ABS: Arson Bomb Squad (This unit was formerly known as the Fraud and Explosives Squad. Don't confuse SPD's ABS with the Anti-lock Braking System developed by Detroit auto makers.)
ACT: Anti Crime Team (A pro-active plain clothes unit created with bodies taken from the ranks of patrol and never replaced.)
AOC: Administrative Office of the Courts (The State administrative arm of the courts.)
AVL: Automatic Vehicle Locator (Because calling it "GPS" would have made too much sense. Remember, Big Brother is watching you!)
BFON: Bona-Fide Operational Need (Legal language designed to keep the brass from involuntarily transferring our members without good cause.)
Brady List: A list of officers, retained by the prosecutor's office, who have veracity issues. Or anybody they feel like!
CAD: Computer Aided Dispatch (Sky-net)
CALEA: Committee on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (The source of the following procedure: A patrol officer checks a box. A patrol supervisor verifies that the box has been checked. The Audit and Accreditation unit develops a matrix to track the box being checked. Commendations are then sent out for checking the correct box. This is known as, "modern police work.")
CART: Child Abduction Response Team (Not to be confused with the old Chemical Agent Response Team as this could lead to a BFON for the COP to change DP&P again.)
CBA: Collective Bargaining Agreement (Viewed only as a "guide" by the city, the CBA is frequently a subject of ULP's.)
C&C: Cops and Coroner (No longer just a paint store. This is an old term that is most commonly used by the fire department when standing by with a DOA. Most recently, Guild President Rich O'Neill was heard requesting C&C as we were negotiating with the City over the CBA, as their latest offer was DOA.)
COMPAS: Council Of Metropolitan Police And Sheriffs
COP: Chief of Police or Cancel Our Pursuits
COPS: California Organization of Police and Sheriffs
COPS: Concerns Of Police Survivors
CPT: Community Police Team (Another specialty unit that was created with bodies stolen from the ranks of patrol.)
CSI: Crime Scene Investigations (A fictitious police unit that was the brainchild of a TV writer for a show by the same name… No wait, we do have one of these! And it's made up from bodies stolen from patrol!)
CUBO: Conduct Unbecoming an Officer (Replaced by the new STandards and Duties manual section. Now it's known as an STD.)
CWA: Communications Workers of America (An organization that specializes in taking our union dues and delivers nothing in return.)
DB: Defined Benefit
DP&P: Department Policy and Procedures (Iron clad rules for rank and file but merely a guide for command staff.)
DOA: Dead On Arrival (So far, this has been a reference to all of the City's offers at the bargaining table!)
DRB: Disciplinary Review Board
FHSA: Flexible Health Spending Account
FLSA: Fair Labor Standard Act (Federal guidelines that protect employees rights, unless it can be used to the City's benefit.)
FRB: Firearms Review Board
Garrity Rights: Rights that protect officers during internal investigations. Statements obtained under Garrity protection cannot be used in any subsequent criminal prosecution.
GO report: General Offense report (Replaces the old easily understood, easily written Incident report. The "GO" report was developed under the SPIDER program.)
GOA: Gone On Arrival (This refers to SPOG's response to the City after they make a contract offer that is DOA.)
GOTS: Get Off The Streets (An East Precinct program designed to assist homeless people who are substance abusers.)
HDHP: High Deductible Health Plan
HMC: Harborview Medical Center (Seattle's premier trauma center where you get treatment while laying next to a derelict who defecated all over his gurney.)
ICAC: Internet Crimes Against Children (Pronounced eye-cack and when spoken sounds something like a cat gagging on a hairball. Kudos to the detectives working in this unit.)
ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Replaced the old INS. As employees of a "sanctuary city" SPD doesn't work with this agency very often.)
ITA: Involuntary Treatment Assessment report (Replaced the old Mental Health Contact report)
JLMC: Joint Labor Management Committee (The SPOG executive board meets with members of the command staff twice each month to iron out ULP's relating to our CBA.)
KCMHP: King County Mental Health Professional (The men in white coats that come to take you away!)
Loudermill Hearing: A hearing with the Chief in which an officer can plead his case and explain his/her actions.
MHP: Mental Health Professional (Refer to KCMHP)
MRE: Mobile Reporting Entity (This would be a laptop computer- duh! not the Army's vacuum packed "Meal Ready to Eat.")
NCI: Neighborhood Corrections Initiative (This is another program designed to reduce criminal activities of habitual offenders. Not to be confused with that little used, yet very effective, program where prisoners make small rocks out of big rocks!)
NCIC: National Crime Information Center is a computer database, managed by the CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Division of the FBI which falls under the jurisdiction of the DOJ (Dept. of Justice) making crime records accessible via an MRE. (Not to be confused with NCI or SPIDER as this program actually works.)
NCPSO: National Coalition of Public Safety Officers (Refer to CWA)
OPARB: Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (A dishonorable civilian oversight committee that routinely violates it's own bi-laws and the Guild's CBA. Also known as the source of leaked confidential information to the media.)
OPA/IIS: Office of Professional Accountability/Internal Investigations Section (If anyone has a malicious, petty, frivolous, minor complaint, this is the office that investigates. If it's anything serious that the public should be concerned about, the FBI steps in and investigates.)
PAC: Political Action Committee (A newly formed, all powerful, sub-committee of the SPOG. Responsible for leveling mountains and toppling small minded politicians.)
PERC: Public Employees Resolution Committee (A State agency which enables the City of Seattle to prolong the collective bargaining process.)
PDR: Public Disclosure Request (A mechanism to release personal information and home addresses of police officers.)
RAP: Retired and Active Police
RMS: Records Management System
SDOT: Seattle Department of Transportation (This is the group that is responsible for managing all of the City's potholes. Not filling them, just locating them.)
SHA: Seattle Housing Authority
SPIDER: Seattle Police Information Dispatch and Electronic Reporting (More of a description than an acronym, SPIDER is the insane tangle of disjointed paperwork that goes in eight different directions at the same time. This is the same software program that turned a routine 2-page incident report into a 65-page GO report.)
SPOG: Seattle Police Officer's Guild (An all powerful entity that is the secret power behind the Seattle Police Department, that controls all management and disciplinary decisions.)
SPRAG: Seattle Police Relief And Guild
STD: This is a new manual section titled STandards and Duties and governs officer conduct, adherence to policy and job performance. Formerly known as CUBO, this acronym has a different meaning in the medical field. However, the medical term does share similarities with SPD's STD's. For instance if you work with an officer who is prone to receiving OPA complaints you may get this advice, "Don't stand too close to him/her or you might catch an STD." Or, "I got an STD from A/Chief _____.
TCIS: Traffic Collision Investigations Section (Formerly known as the Accident Investigations Section, it was determined that the term "accident" implies that nobody is at fault. The term "collision" is much less ambiguous and most certainly causes TCIS detectives to work far more efficiently.)
ULP: Unfair Labor Practice (A reference to the City's style of bargaining with SPOG over a new contract. Can also be referred to as the way in which the Department prefers to involuntarily transfer SPOG members.)
VEBA: Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (An opportunity lost.)
WACOPS: Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs
WTSC: Washington Traffic Safety Commission (I wonder if these were the guys who thought it was a good idea to have freeway exits and entrances on the left side of the freeway?)
WSLCB: Washington State Liquor Control Board (These are the boys that enforce the States monopoly on liquor sales.)

If you understood all of that, you may be in need of KCMHP to take you to HMC via an AMR. Unless it violates our CBA in which case it would be a ULP!

When Enough is Enough?

By Officer Nick Bowns, North Precinct

On January 9, 2008, everything changes. Department Sergeants are currently in training for the Neighborhood Policing Project. They have received a series of documents which I've read: Management Reports, Team-Building and Leadership, Leading in Times of Change, Phase 1 – District Restructuring, and Patrol Supervisors Operations.

I like being a patrol officer. I don't want to be a Sergeant, a Detective, a Lieutenant, a Captain, an Assistant Chief, a Deputy Chief, or the Chief of Police. I wouldn't mind being "Chief for a Day", but that's only a kindergarten concept. I expect this article to be controversial. I want this article to be controversial, because, Toto, things aren't fine in Kansas anymore. We all feel it. You feel it. Something is wrong and we can't quite put our finger on it.

I thought I'd write about the entire post January 9 transition, but I had to stop at Management Reports – Neighborhood Policing Project. I don't mind change and I don't mind organizations acting to improve themselves. That would be like saying Bell Telephone was a good idea. It was. It had its day. Things change. I remember the milk man delivering glass bottles on the doorstep. I embrace many of the objectives of Neighborhood Policing and also recognize that may result in shift changes, some organizational change, and even a change in mindset.

What I don't get is the absence of leadership and this singular focus on "eating our young" – patrol. Keep in mind, less than half this Department is now in patrol. There is a real issue here and it's called "**TRUST**". Somehow we've gotten away from the idea that; all the good training (and it has been good and it is on-going with hat's off to our Advanced Training Unit and Range Unit), and all the Department detectives and managers who have come through patrol, the directives, the Policy and Procedures manual, the annual efficiency reports, squad, watch, and precinct leadership, and all the calls and the officer experiences that represents, isn't good enough to Police Seattle.

I can't write this article without making lists. Per the Neighborhood Policing monthly Management Reports, which kick in January 9, 2008, here's how a patrol officer will be evaluated and monitored. Big Brother will watch your: travel time to a call, off time (shift beat officer not assigned report), if you didn't log off, response time to a call, your time on-scene, admin time (taking a leak, coffee, eating), officer on-view activity, on-view time, average time on-scene, average time on-scene per other unit on-scene time, total time logged on, total calls handled, when you logged on, log off time, in-service time, time available during shift, camera time and camera use, taser applications and times, gas, sick time, use of force times, accidents, ISS beefs, e-mail and MDC messages and GPS location at all times.

And, something called your individual performance management data (MPP) –Lite and Heavy. I can only suppose this is a computer function capable of pulling together your every flaw during the course of a shift, week, or month.
Here's what was left out: I'm sure this was an oversight and will be corrected in Edition 2:Times you pursued a suspect in a vehicle or on foot, times you bantered during a roll call, prisoner transport time and of course, report preparation time.

Conspicuously absent from the above management system is any hint of your performance to reduce crime rates while protecting and serving the public – you know, police work. Are we allowed to make any mistakes at all?

So here is my recommended list of management reports whereby "patrol" can monitor non-patrol Department Employees – I call it the Patrol Monthly Management System (**PMMS)**. Monthly reports will be generated whereby patrol officers can evaluate the performance of the following individuals:

Managers (Lieutenant and above): Admin time (taking a leak, coffee, eating), time on the phone, time in meetings, time in training, time available during the day (non-productive, goofing off stuff), GPS location during the day, good ideas, bad ideas, travel time to roll calls, addressing roll call officers, average time spent in each Precinct, ride-a-longs with officers, camera and audio time to document performance

Follow-up Unit detectives: Admin time (taking a leak, coffee, eating), time on the phone, time in meetings, time in training, time available during the day (non-productive, goofing off stuff), GPS location during the day, time on-scene with patrol officers, clearance rate per Detective per unit per case, average time spent in each precinct and time driving to the Southwest Precinct without a map. So, how do you feel? While its tongue in cheek, it hurts. Why? It is inherently unfair to measure your worth, value, and performance, statistically, by numbers, by a stop watch. How do you think we feel? This is the antithesis of Leadership. This is management taken to the extreme, and we don't like it and we don't appreciate it. Remember last month's article about it not being fun anymore? Wonder Why? Now we've even documented that: No Bantering in roll call. Hell, if I were "Chief" for the day, I'd require officers to laugh and have fun in roll call. It's probably the only fun thing you'll do for the next nine hours. It's how one maintains sanity in an insane occupation. It goes to those following four documents, which talk about "team building and a sense of pride".

I'd like to see an edition of *The Guardian* with nothing but letters to the editor: officers, detectives, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, chiefs, PEO's, dispatchers, SPD non-sworn employees, and all retired SPD officers. I need to know if I'm just nuts, and way off base here. If so, tell me, I can take it: Like "Hey Bowns, you're an idiot. Shut up and get with the program". Let's get our views out in the open and on the table. You only need to write one paragraph. If you're going to do it, do it right now. Let's use *The Guardian* for its intended purpose, expressing our views as a guild of officers. Let's support President Rich O'Neill's desire to "communicate" our ideas.

So, yes, now I'm mad. This is awful. It's awful that leadership would put us in this position and that they think this is how we control these "_____". I want leadership, not management. You can't treat police officers like this. We are willing to come to work every day and pay the ultimate sacrifice. Who is going to stand up and say Enough is Enough"?

Guardian e-mail for submission is spogguardian@yahoo.com.

i n • t e g • r i • t y

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425-316-5102

Retired News

By Mike Germann

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!

New Retirements
No new retirements from the Seattle Police sworn ranks to publish this month.

Medicare Rate Increases
The 2008 Standard Rate for Medicare, Part B is $96.40/month. However, a very few of you may be required to pay something more than the standard rate because the premium is indexed to income. Most of you will not notice any change from the standard rate. Social Security will notify you of any change. Call Mike Germann @ (206) 386-1289 in the Pension Office if you have questions on this subject.

Annual Reports(s) and Healthcare Statements Due
Your annual report form(s) for all pensioners, including lawful beneficiaries (widows) were mailed out on December 10, 2007. That's a little early this year but popular demand to start early was high. Retirees want to travel right after the year-end holidays.

If you haven't received your annual report forms(s) by the end of December 2007, call Elaine Danielson in the Pension Office at (206) 386-1287. She'll send you what you need to complete your annual report.

Your signature(s) must be notarized. State and City auditors spot check your reports to validate benefits you are receiving. Call the Pension Office if you have annual reporting questions.

Police Pension Board Increases Dental for 2008
The Police Pension Board met on December 13, 2007. On the agenda was a proposed increase of the amount of dental reimbursement. The Police Pension Board did increase the 2008 reimbursement rate to $1,000 out-of-pocket expense annually, up $250 from the 2007 maximum of $750 out-of-pocket expense annually. You don't need to wait until year end to submit your reimbursement claim(s). As soon as you pay your dental bill(s), send your reimbursement request to the Pension Office.

Police Management Escalator Increases
Some 96 retired police managers and 4 lawful beneficiaries will see an increase of 5.00% on their Police Pension (City) retirement benefit effective December 26, 2007 and payable on February 1, 2008. This is from the S.P.M.A. contract escalator. Not all retired police management personnel will see this increase. Only those whose current City/ Police Pension retirement benefit exceeds their State/LEOFF I pension are so entitled, or who are escalator only retirees/beneficiaries. Most of you so entitled know your pension benefit.
Call Mike Germann @ (206) 386-1289 if you have questions.

Medicare and Miscellaneous Reimbursements Due Now
This is the second and last time the Police Pension Office will publish the 2007 Medicare, Part B and Medicare Supplement reimbursement form. NOW is the time to file and send to the Police Pension Office not only your reimbursement for Medicare related expenses but any other bills and claims that you need to send in to the Pension Office.
There are over 500 Medicare reimbursements this year. It takes a while to process them. All the reimbursement checks will be sent at the same time around the middle of January 2008. Any questions about reimbursements are handled by John Sullivan/ Tom Grabicki at (206) 386-1287.

NOTICE
LEOFF I AND ESCALATOR RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE PENSION FUND
MEMBERS ONLY
2007 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

This form is only for LEOFF I or ESCALATOR retired Seattle Police Pension Fund members (not beneficiaries) on MEDICARE, and is a reimbursement request for premiums you paid in conjunction with Medicare and, in some cases, for Medicare Supplement (Regence). Reimbursement will only be considered in response to your submitting a claim for your cost in 2007. Those who are covered by a Medicare supplement through Premera Blue Cross, your premiums are paid directly by the Police Pension Office and are not reimbursable.

The $131 annual Medicare deductible is also reimbursable if you paid the deductible yourself. In that case, send a copy of the Medicare report showing the amount of deductible you met for 2007. In most cases the Police Pension Office has already paid the $131 deductible during the course of the year.

(*If you are uncertain about your coverage, please contact John Sullivan at 206-386-1287.*)

Medicare Premium, Part B **$93.50 x _____ = $_____**
(Deducted from your Social Security check or paid quarterly by you.) **# of months**

Premium for Regence Blue Shield **$_____ x _____ = $_____**
(Supplement to Medicare or equivalent) **# of months**

Medicare deductible **$_____**
Maximum of $131, if applicable (See paragraph 2 above)

TOTAL $_____

Name (Please Print) _____
Address_____
City _____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____
SIGNATURE _____

Please return this reimbursement form to:
Seattle Police Pension Office
PO Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

January 2008
Retirees' Birthdays

*Numbers in parenthesis ( ) indicate November birth date.*Douglas Aardahl (23), Kenneth G. Baggen (24), Iris L. Bailey (23), Barbara J. Bakke (28), Robert T. Ballantyne (12), Jerauld F. Bickel (10), Orville Riley Brice (11), Robert R. Buston (4), Tommy C. Caldwell (2), Maxine A. Cook (21), John L. Dack (21), Earl M. Davis (31), James C. Deschane (26), James P. Devine (7), Beverly J. Doman (26), Keith T. Engstrom (22), Alfred E. Fenkner (28), Calvin James Fisk (11), Marilyn M. Garner (2), Glenn E. Gilbert (20), Linda M. Mortenson Gow (11), Gary I. Greenbaum (14), Donald R. Harris (28), Laurence L. Hart (9), Stephen A. Heard (8), Richard C. Herdeck (20), Joseph E. Higgins (1), Percie L. Hill (19), Ramon A. Holm (3), Betty J. Honz (28), Warren R. Hume (20), Richard R. Hybak (29), Billy F. Johnson (24), Larry D. Johnson (22), Tyrone B. Kane (24), Gary W. Kolsky (22), John L. Kristof (8), Gary C. Krueger (26), Margaret A. Lindell (16), Warren P. Lisenby (27), Donald P. Marquart (17), Larry G. Martin (13), Ronald R. McAffee (28), Charles E. McClure (18), Keith E. McGehe (23), William B. McKenna (28), Darline Miller (20), Robert L. Miller (20), Colleen F. Moe (1), Patrick J. Moriarty (23), Thomas H. Murphy (20), Kenneth J. Nelson (9), John D. Nichols (30), William J. Noon (28), Mary L. Orewiler (21), Margaret L. Oslin (23), Patricia I. Perry (17), James B. Phillips (7), Charles E. Pillon (13), Boyd E. Prahmus (19), Milton C. Rasmussen, Jr (4), Jack W. Ray (17), Stephen W. Raymond (19), Fayetta M. Ready (29), Gail S. Richardson (5), Steven J. Rix (13), Dennis N. Ronning (10), Debra T. Sabourin (7), Barry G. Schlecht (27), Harry L. Schneider (21), Michael G. Shoddy (1), Arlene M. Smith (11), Jerry E. Smith (20), George H. Stablein (13), Marcus L. Taylor (3), Gerald G. Teller (7), Charles R. Tripp (22), Francais X. Trudeau (2), Larry G. Umipig (22), Jack L. Wallock (13), Gloria A. Wilson (21), Thomas R. Witkowski (14), Donald Yeowell (16)

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Last Ring

Jerry W. Beem, #2542, retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer/Detective, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2007, in Edmonds, Washington. He was 69 years of age at his passing. Jerry Beem, a.k.a. "Beemer", was appointed as a Seattle Police Officer on January 31, 1966. He served in a variety of assignments including uniformed patrol, bicycle patrol and narcotics. He retired from sworn police service on January 27, 1992. Jerry Beem is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Marilyn, and his daughter, Wendy, her husband Wayne, and two grandsons, Gregory and Stephen.

LaVelle W. "Bill" Thresher, #1863, retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away peacefully on November 16, 2007, while in Hospice care in Puyallup, Washington. He was 76 years of age upon his death. LaVelle Thresher was born on November 17, 1931. He was appointed a Seattle Police Patrolman on March 3, 1958. He served as a uniformed patrol officer until his retirement on October 25, 1990. LaVelle Thresher is survived by his devoted companion Barbara, his four children, Marie, Bryan, Bill Debbie, thirteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. LaVelle's wife of fourteen years, Lura, preceded him in death in 2002.

Walter D. "Dale" Halvorson, #2443, retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on November 26, 2007. He was 74 years old upon his death and a nursing home patient for several years. Dale Halvorson was born on January 29, 1933. He was appointed a "Patrolman" of the Seattle Police Department on November 30, 1964. He retired on September 20, 1987 with 22 years and 10 months police service. Dale is survived by a son, a daughter, Kari Hull, and four grandchildren.

Robert C. "Bob" Burrell, #2055, retired Seattle Police Motorcycle Officer, passed away at his home in Spokane, Washington on November 26, 2007 following a long illness. He was 74 years of age upon his death. Bob Burrell was born on November 4, 1933. He was appointed a Seattle Police Officer on July 25, 1960 and retired on April 15, 1989. He was a motorcycle officer for most of his police career. Bob Burrell leaves his wife, Gayle. They had been married for four years.

Joan M. Wolph, surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Officer Richard F. "Dick" Wolph, #757, passed away on November 23, 2007, in Tahoe Vista, California following a brief illness. She was the mother of active duty Seattle Police Officer Steve Wolph.

May they all rest in peace.

"The Ol' Blue Clan Reunion"

The 2008 Ol' Blue Clan Reunion will be held on Saturday, March 15th at the Turf Paradise Horse Track in Phoenix, AZ. Doors open at noon. The cost is $40.00 per person. Please include the names of all persons in your party with your payment.

The Ol' Blue Clan Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 16th, the day after the Ol' Blue Clan Reunion.

Your registration fee includes: golf with power cart; range balls; KP and long drive prizes; cash prizes for winning teams; post golf food and drinks. Once again, the Seattle Police Golf Association has contributed to the prize fund and the refreshments.

This year, the tournament will be held at the Lakes Course at Westbrook Village. This is the same course where we have held the post golf parties at Pat Munter's place the last three years.

Please include your most recent golf handicap or, if you don't have an official handicap, submit your approximate 18-hole average golf score.

Direct **golf questions** to Pat Munter at 206-367-7709

To reserve your spot for the reunion and/or golf tournament (can be on one check), send your check made out to:

Jim Johnson
8265 E. Southern Ave #303
Mesa, AZ 85209

If you have any questions, call Jim Johnson @480-373-7303 or 360-701-6371

Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith,Editor

I wonder when the city is going to wake up and take note of the volume of officers leaving SPD for the "greener pastures" of other local departments. I know for a fact that Lakewood PD is appreciative that SPD hired and trained so many quality candidates, so they could lure them away and get an experienced cop for free. How many have they stolen now, was that eight, nine or maybe ten? I hear that Federal Way and Renton are catching on and starting to grab some of our officers. Where as SPD used to be a place people wanted to be, we are being relegated to a training ground for other smaller agencies to draw from. The citizens are getting fleeced not only by the lack of officers on the street to answer 911 calls, but also by paying for the training of officers that other agencies are getting for FREE! Wake up City Hall while there is still time! Settle the SPOG contract with a substantial pay raise and incentives to keep our experienced officers in the French blue shirts they belong in!

Many of you are probably familiar with the aluminum bracelets worn to commemorate those who were KIA, MIA in war, or possibly even to honor a fallen law enforcement officer. Earlier this year while doing a Google search for an old Army buddy, I discovered that he had been KIA in Baghdad on 01-23-2007. As I sat there stunned in front of my computer, I clicked on numerous websites to learn about his death. I discovered officerpratt.org/tyebandcom, where I found the coolest looking memorial band I have ever seen, known as the "Tye Band." The "Tye Band" was created by Mike Pratt of Omaha, NE after his son; Omaha Police Officer Tye Pratt was shot and killed in the line of duty on 09-11-2003. I ordered one to commemorate my buddy, Steve "G-Man" Gernet, compete with a picture of him on the bracelet. Since I started wearing it I have got nothing but positive feedback. If you are looking to commemorate a fallen officer, soldier, sailor, airman, marine or anyone else, take a look at the "Tye Band;" you won't be disappointed!

You should be receiving your ballot for the 2008 SPOG elections and CWA disaffiliation vote in your mailbox, complete with a postage paid return envelope very soon, if not already. Please take the time to cast your ballot, as your vote is your say in how SPOG is guided in the future. I would appreciate your vote for SPOG Secretary/Treasurer.

Happy New Year! Until next month, be safe out there! Feel free to contact me with your comments or suggestions at spogguardian@yahoo.com. "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." – Abraham Lincoln.

Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of January!

25 years of Service

Sergeant Darrell Charles, FFFE
Sergeant Bob Vallor, Homicide
Officer Randy Robinson, Traffic

20 years of Service

Sergeant Jay Shin, East Precinct

15 years of Service

Detective Steve Berg, South Detectives
Officer Jon Dittoe, North Precinct
Officer Sean Hamlin, North Precinct
Officer Julius Howard, North Precinct
Officer Don Johnson, West Precinct
Officer Todd Kibbee, North Precinct

10 years of Service

Officer Kim Biggs, West Precinct

All *Guardian* submissions are due by January 15, 2008 to **spogguardian@yahoo.com**

Calendar of Events

Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office
Wednesday, January 9th at 1300 hours

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (SPOG Office Closed)
Monday, January 21st

SPOG Election Ballots Due
Wednesday, January 23rd

Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office
Wednesday, January 30th at 2000 hours

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